

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 76

By Ford, O.

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of W. S. Howard.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. W. S. "Babe" Howard; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Millington, W. S. "Babe" Howard was a highly respected member of his community earning recognition as a prominent businessman, civic leader, and philanthropist; and

WHEREAS, a member of America's greatest generation, Mr. Howard proudly served his country during World War II as a member of the 508<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment in Europe, seeing duty as a member of the Honor Guard under General Dwight D. Eisenhower during the occupation after the war prior to receiving his honorable discharge; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard received national recognition as president and general manager of Millington Telephone Co. for over fifty years, earning the respect and admiration of his peers in the industry who chose him to serve as an officer of the Tennessee Telephone Association (TTA) for over thirty years and the State Telephone Executive Secretaries Association for sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, a founder and officer of the Organization for the Protection and Advancement of Small Telephone Companies (OPASTCO) since 1963, Mr. Howard served as director of the United States Telephone Association (USTA) for nine years and was a past director of both the Independent Telephone Pioneer Association (ITPA) and the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) Telephone Bank Board; and

WHEREAS, a legend in the Mid-South area for his unrivaled support and sponsorship of area athletic teams, especially baseball, Mr. Howard built USA Stadium in Millington, the official training site of USA Baseball from 1988 until 1998, which hosted the American Legion World Series in 1989 and the NJCAA-II World Series in 1993. He was presented the Honor Award for his contributions to amateur baseball by the Amateur Baseball Coaches Association in 1996; and

WHEREAS, during his lifetime, W. S. "Babe" Howard rendered sterling service as an Alderman for the City of Millington for nineteen years, including service on the Beer Board, and as a member of the Millington Planning Commission, the Shelby County School Board, and the Millington Municipal Airport Authority; and

WHEREAS, a friend to the environment, he was a past Chairman of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and was instrumental in saving Ghost River, part of the Wolf River, from destruction; he also served on numerous TWRA boards, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation and the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation; and

WHEREAS, an active participant in numerous community organizations, Mr. Howard was a member of the Millington Chamber of Commerce, former director of the Millington United Fund, founder and former director of Millington Crime Stoppers, and longtime member of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Belle Memorial Association; and

WHEREAS, always willing to aid his community, Mr. Howard made numerous contributions to many civic and community projects and organizations including the U.S. Navy, the University of Memphis, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the City of Millington, the Girl and Boy Scouts of America, and individual area schools to name but a few; and

WHEREAS, inducted into the Memphis Society of Entrepreneurs in 1998, Mr. Howard was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Navy League, the Lions Club, and a Scottish Rite Mason; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he was named Man of the Year by the both Millington Chamber of Commerce and the South Tipton County Chamber of Commerce; Boss of the Year by the Millington Jaycees, and received the Humanitarian Award

from Governor Winfield Dunn and the Silver M Award from the University of Memphis Athletic Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard was also deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his beloved wife of fifty-four years, Ann Anderson Howard and a daughter, Carol Keith Howard, Mr. Howard will be sorely missed by his devoted children and their spouses, Charlotte Ann and Ray Barry, Stuart Howard, Holly Lee Starnes, and Laura Lynne and Ray Rosas; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by his adoring grandchildren and their spouses, Shawn Michael Thompson, Daniel Lee and Stefanie Thompson, Jonathan Cawley Thompson, Hope and W. S. "Billy" Howard III, Jarod Alan Starnes, and Rebecca Lee Starnes, and his treasured great-grandchildren, Ann Maria Howard, Mallory Rice Howard, W.S. "Will" Howard IV, Dalton Gardner Thompson, Dylan Cawley Thompson, Jessica Dawn Branch, Skylar Ann Allen, Erica Renee Allen, and Seth Tyler Allen; and

WHEREAS, W. S. "Babe" Howard leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of W. S. Howard, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Howard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.